(195) Department

~~G.O. No.~~

Dated

SECRET

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Public (S.C.) Department.
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Memorandum No.S/518-12/53, Dated 30th August, 1954.

Consignments of gifts from abroad to organisations in India - Policy regarding import of and grant of Customs concessions on them - Government of India's decision - Communicated.

Enclosed for information and guidance is a copy of the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, letter No.D/4248/Eur.II/54, dated 26th July, 1954, on the above subject. Collectors and the Commissioner of Police, Madras are requested to report to Government, immediately cases of the kind referred to in para 2 of the Government of India letter cited, that come to their notice.

(Harbans Singh)
For Chief Secretary to Government.

To All Collectors.
The Commissoner of Police, Madras.
The Director of Medical Services, Madras.
Board of Revenue, Madras.
Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) Madras;
Copy to the Inspector-General of Police, Madras.
Copy to the Superintendent, of Police, Special Branch, C.I.D., Madras.
Copy to the Revenue, H.E.& L.A. and Agriculture Depts.

Enclosure.

Copy of Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, letter No.D/4248/Eur.II/54, dated 26th July, 1954,

Subject:--Consignments of gifts from abroad to organizations in India - Policy regarding import of and grant of customs concessions on them.

I am directed to refer to letter No.S/518-2/53, dated the 9th April, 1953, from the Government of composite Madras and to say that the question of permission to allow the import of consignments of gifts from aborad addressed to organizations in India and the grant of customs concessions thereon has been carefully consisdered by the Government of India and it has been decided that the following principles shall apply in such cases infuture.

(a) If the consignee is a political body and if there is reason to hold that the gift is motivated by political considerations, then import will not be permitted at all. This restriction will, of course, not apply to articles that are for the time being included in the Open General License list; and

(b) Where the consignee is not ostensibly a political body, but there is reason to think that it is working in league with such an organization or lending itself for the purposes of such a body, then no exemption from customs duty would be granted.

Note: The issue of exemption from customs duty arises only in respect of consumable stores, such as articles of food, medicine and clothing. So far as non-consumable stores (like hospital equipment) are concerned, the practice is that the payment of import duty is not waived by the Customs Department but in certain cases Government have reimbursed the xxxxxx amount in the shape of a grant from a different Ministry, E.G, the Ministry of Health. (b) above would cover both cases : in other words there would be neither exemption from payment of duty not reimbursement of the duty paid.

If in the light of the above decision the State Government has information regarding the consignee being a political body or the gift having been motivated by political considerations, the same may be furnished to the Government of India so that t is fact may be takne into consideration before a decision is given.

(Sd) xxxxxx
Superintendent.
Public (S.C) Dept.

Please see PP 1-2 ante. There are no previous papers on the subject in this Dept. (In this connection it is submitted that when some gift medicines were received by the Andhra students federation in 1953 from abroad, the question of payment of customs duty was considered and finally the Govt. took delivery of the goods for distribution to the flood affected areas. The connected papers were dealt with in Pub). No action seem called for on the Memo at pp 1-2 ante. may be lodged.

/True copy/